

FEB 21 2002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: ZHOU ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/751,314

Filed: February 28, 2001

For: MATERIALS HAVING CONTROLLED
SHRINKAGE AND PATTERNS AND
METHODS OF MAKING SAME

Art Unit: 1773

Examiner: N. Uhlir

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#9
C Green
3/8/02

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RESTRICTION RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the Restriction/Election mailed January 9, 2002, Applicants request further examination in light of the following remarks.

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are pending in the present application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present claims in view of the following remarks.

I. Formal Matters:

Restriction Requirement

The Office Action requires restriction between the following groups of claims:

Group I: Claims 1-14 and 24-33 drawn to a method for manufacturing a controlled shrinkage film; and

Group II: Claims 15-23 drawn to a controlled shrinkage film.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on February 7, 2002.

Theodore M. Green - Reg. No. 41,801

Applicants elect, *with traverse*, Group I, Claims 1-14 and 24-33, drawn to a method for making a controlled shrinkage film, reserving the right to pursue claims 15-23 in a divisional patent application, if necessary.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above restriction requirement given that the above groups of claims are so interrelated that prosecution of the claims would not unduly burden the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully submit that each group of claims features a microwave sensitive material having a latent polymer material and a sensitizer coated thereon. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that a search of the methods of making these materials would result in a search of the materials themselves. Thus, Applicants submit that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP § 803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct and independent inventions."

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the restriction requirement and examination of claims 1-33 as a single group.

II. Conclusion:

For at least the reasons given above, Applicants submit that a search for the subject matter of claims 1-33 could be made without serious burden to the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction/election requirement be withdrawn.

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete Response to the Restriction Requirement mailed January 9, 2002, and early and favorable consideration of the claims is requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Restriction Response
Serial No. 09/751,314
Attorney Docket No.: 11710-0200
Page 3

No additional fees are believed due; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 11-0855.

Respectfully submitted,

KILPATRICK STOCKTON LLP



By: Theodore M. Green
Reg. No. 41,801

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404/815-6500
Attorney Docket No. 11710-0200
Attorney File No. 44043.228529
K-C No. 15,127

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Groups I in Paper No. 9 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the groups of claims are interrelated and prosecution would not unduly burden the examiner. This is not found persuasive because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper and because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper. However, in the interest of advanced prosecution the restriction requirement is withdrawn and claims 1-33 will be examined together.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

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Art Unit: 1711

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Theodore Green on June 3, 2002.

The application has been amended as follows:

Delete in claim 1, A method of making a material comprising: and

Insert into its place, A method of making a patterned material having a controlled tension comprising:

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-33 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art fails to teach a method of making a patterned material having a controlled tension comprising the steps of providing a heat-sensitive latent polymer material, applying a sensitizer to at least a portion of the polymer material, and exposing the polymer material having the sensitizer thereon to microwave energy. In addition, the prior art fails to teach a patterned material having a controlled tension comprising a heat-sensitive latent polymer material and a sensitizer coated on at least a portion of the polymer material.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions

18

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should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

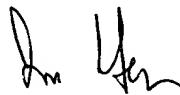
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sanza L McClendon whose telephone number is (703) 305-0505. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Seidleck can be reached on (703) 308-2462. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0657.

Sanza L McClendon
Examiner
Art Unit 1711

SMc
June 3, 2002


James J. Seidleck
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1700

